MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JULY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported on 22 July that late the previous night an Israeli armored battalion attempted to advance toward the Al-Khardali bridge in the direction of the Palestinian stronghold Beaufort Castle. According to the radio, Palestinian forces repulsed the attack, destroying two tanks and another vehicle. The radio also reported that early on 22 July the IDF carried out an operation in the Az-Zahrani area involving helicopter-borne troops backed by covering fire from warships. Soon afterward, the radio said, Israeli artillery began pounding the road between the Al-Khardali bridge and Beaufort Castle. In a related report, the Voice of Palestine announced that the Palestinians captured an Israeli corporal. However, in a report broadcast on 22 July, Jerusalem radio quoted IDF sources as denying all knowledge of an Israeli armored thrust toward Beaufort Castle and as also denying the Palestinian claim to have captured an Israeli soldier.

The Voice of Palestine reported further Israeli artillery shelling of Palestinian positions in the south throughout 21 July. The targets included Ar-Rashidiyah Camp, Al-Qal'ah, Al-'Ayshiyah, Tyre, Beaufort Castle and An-Nabatiyah. The radio claimed that an Israeli aircraft was shot down during an afternoon raid on An-Nabatiyah. Later, it reported renewed air raids on Ar-Rashidiyah Camp and Tyre. Jerusalem radio, citing the IDF spokesman, confirmed the Israeli air strikes, reporting that the planes hit Palestinian artillery positions and that all the aircraft returned safely to base.

Jerusalem radio said a Palestinian artillery attack on northern Israel injured one person and damaged several buildings, but it also said other artillery attacks throughout 21 July and early the next day caused no casualties and did little damage. The radio noted on 22 July that the Israeli settlers in the Galilee panhandle have now spent 7 consecutive nights in their shelters. According to the Voice of Hope radio, Palestinian shelling on the night of 21-22 July caused heavy damage in the Christian-held border strip. Jerusalem television defended Israel's repeated attacks on Palestinian refugee camps like Ar-Rashidiyah on the grounds that the Palestinian military organizations use them as "camouflage garages" to hide their cannon and rockets. It said the Palestinians are using 30 to 50 such artillery pieces to shell northern settlements in Israel. According to Jerusalem radio, the Syrians have been giving the Palestinians orders and information for their operations against the Israeli settlements.

Syria on SAM Deployment--Damascus radio quoted TISHRIN as saying on 21 July that Syria's antiaircraft missiles in Lebanon will "not remain limited to certain circles" and that they will be deployed "where necessary ... to defend the Syrian forces in Lebanon and, consequently, the Lebanese and Palestinians."

Israeli Cabinet Meeting--Jerusalem television reported that the Israeli Cabinet has rejected the U.S. demand that Israel unilaterally cease fire. Although the television said the Cabinet decision contained no reference to the suspension of F-16 deliveries, Jerusalem radio reported that the Cabinet views President Ronald Reagan's decision to suspend the delivery of the aircraft as tantamount to pressure on Israel to comply with the U.S. demand for a cease-fire. According to Jerusalem radio, the Cabinet adopted Begin's position that Israel will continue to demand that the Lebanese Government take action to remove the "terrorists" and will not agree to a cease-fire that will enable them to reorganize and attack Israeli citizens following a few months of calm. The radio said the Cabinet must still decide how to handle the PLO and must examine relations with the United States. The prevalent view regarding the PLO is that strikes against it should continue until its infrastructure is destroyed, the radio noted.

Habib Mission--Jerusalem radio reported that after the Cabinet meeting Begin met with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib to brief him on the Israeli Government stance. It said that in his meeting with Habib, Begin protested the White House decision to suspend the delivery of F-16 aircraft, emphasizing that this is the first time that conditions stipulated in Israeli-U.S. contracts for the supply of arms have been violated. According to the radio, Begin's protest expressed dismay that a friendly administration would not honor its contracts, particularly in view of the regular and constant supply of lethal weapons to the Palestinians by the Soviet Union and Libya. After his meeting with Habib, Begin made an announcement, broadcast live by Jerusalem radio, in which he said the Cabinet agreed that Habib will hold contacts with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and the Lebanese Government aimed at establishing peace between Israel and Lebanon. The prime minister asserted that the Israeli Government will under no circumstances hold negotiations, either direct or indirect, with the "terrorist" organizations or empower anyone else to conduct negotiations with them. He also said the Israeli Government will continue to defend Israeli citizens, as is its right and duty.

U.S.-Israeli Differences--Jerusalem radio reported that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's message to Prime Minister Begin was formulated in a "reassuring style," which it said contrasted with reports from Ottawa saying the United States had sent a firm message to Israel. The radio said that while Haig repeated in his message that Israel is a friend and an ally of the United States, he explained that President Reagan had no choice but to freeze the delivery of F-16 aircraft in light of reports on the killing of civilians in the Israeli attack on Beirut. The radio also reported that the prime minister was not prepared to respond to the U.S. demand that the hostilities cease at once. On these two issues the governments of the United States and Israel are fundamentally at odds, it said. According to the radio, Israel's stance is based on an in-depth analysis of the term "cease-fire," which it interprets as implying recognition of the party with which one reaches a cease-fire. It is this trap that the Cabinet wants to avoid, it said.

Tzipori Remarks--Interviewed by a Jerusalem television correspondent, Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said there is no crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations, just a legitimate argument. He expressed the opinion that the common denominator between Israel and the United States is so deep that the argument will be resolved. In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Tzipori said Israel is prepared to negotiate a cease-fire with the Lebanese authorities in order to help return order to their country and along the Israeli-Lebanese border. He affirmed, however, that Israel will never negotiate with the Palestinians.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PAGHMAN CLEARED OF 'THIEVES,' 'MERCENARIES'

LD210430 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Excerpts] The internal counterrevolutionaries, in collusion with their international masters, the United States, West Germany, England, China, Egypt, Israel and Pakistan, have disrupted the peace of our toiling and Muslim people by creating great obstacles here and there in the path of the revolution and jeopardizing their peaceful life.

Recently a group of thieves and mercenary assailants--lackeys of the devilish forces--disrupted the tranquillity of the toiling people of Paghman. The people demanded immediate release from the evils of these plundering criminals. The heroic troops of the DRA Armed Forces--those defenders of the interests, prosperity and tranquillity of the people--along with the self-sacrificing militants of the PDPA, gave a positive response to the cries of the toiling and Muslim people of Paghman and organized operations last week to clear the area of thieves and murderers.

These operations destroyed the enemy's positions, which had been set up on the orders of their masters. Hundreds of the thieves and mercenaries were punished for their shameful actions and a number of them handed over to the law.

During these operations, assorted types of light and heavy weapons made in the United States, China, England, Egypt and Pakistan were seized from the crushed bandits.

KABUL TV SHOWS CADETS SLAIN IN PAGHMAN BATTLE

BK220935 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] New Delhi, 22 Jul (AFP)--Afghan rebels fought a three-day battle with Soviet aided government forces in the former royal summer resort town of Paghman, about 20 kms (12 miles) northwest of Kabul beginning July 13, killing and wounding "several hundred" Soviet and Afghan troops, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources described the fighting as the heaviest near Kabul since the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan 19 months ago.

The reports were confirmed by other diplomatic sources in the Indian capital who monitor developments in Afghanistan. Further confirmation also came from the Afghan capital when the state-owned Kabul television showed dead bodies of 30 cadets of the Kabul Military Academy killed in the Paghman operation. The cadets sent to fight the rebels were in the age group of 17-18, the sources here said.

This is the first time that the Kabul television admitted the deaths of so many in rebel attacks.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY START OFFENSIVE IN KONARHA

BK211648 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 21 Jul 81

[by Alain Faudeux]

[Text] Islamabad, 21 Jul (AFP)--Soviet troops, assisted by helicopter-borne commandos, have been staging an offensive in the eastern Afghan province of Konarha to recapture ground lost to Muslim partisans during the last few months, according to a spokesman of a mojahedin organization based at Peshawar, Pakistan.

The offensive, begun several days ago in the upper Konar River valley, has inflicted serious losses on the mojahedin, who have had to retreat toward the north, a spokesman for the Muslim guerrillas has admitted.

About 5,000 inhabitants of villages on the Soviet line of march have abandoned their homes and fled toward Pakistan, the source said.

In the spring of 1980, tens of thousands of inhabitants of Konarha and the nearby valleys fled to Pakistan during the Soviet offensive in that area.

According to reports that were never confirmed, Soviet occupation troops at that time used poison gas that could cause death in certain conditions to force the villagers to flee.

The Soviet column--made up entirely of Red Army soldiers and armored vehicles--has been advancing slowly, but has already retaken the Damgan garrison, north of the village of Asmar, captured two months ago by the rebels.

According to the partisans, helicopters dropped commandos on the high ground above Damgan, and these troops inflicted heavy losses on the mojahedin. Armored vehicles and infantry quickly occupied the former Afghan garrison and strengthened its defenses.

The Soviet column then resumed its advance toward Nari, another point besieged three months ago by the mojahedin who cut off the government garrison of Barikot, in northern Konarha province.

The current offensive seems to be aimed at opening up the Bariot road and relieving the garrison, which could only be supplied by helicopter. However, rebels in Nuristan, north of Barikot, fear that the offensive is also heading toward their province.

Nuristan has been completely free of government troops since 1977, but its mojahedin began several months ago to ally themselves to Pashtu tribes in the neighboring valleys and to attack government positions in Konar and the Pech valley.

According to a Nuristan representative at Peshawar, the Pech valley, where partisans took over two small government outposts in June, has also been the object of a Soviet incursion. But the troops left after forcing the mojahedin to take to the mountains.

Other resistance groups reported Soviet troop movements toward the Panshir valley, about 60 miles (100 km) north of Kabul. Several times in the past, such movements have been repulsed by Jamiat-I-Islami forces.

Kabul Airport has been busy with helicopters and MiG fighters landing and taking off again with fresh loads of bombs and rockets.

It is possible, according to some observers, that these moves are not just a limited response in regions where partisan resistance has scored successes.

Since the Soviet Government labelled "unrealistic" the European proposals for a political solution to the Afghan crisis, the Red Army may have received orders to take back the initiative.

In some places, it is none too soon. North of Konarha, along the Pakistani border, the relative passivity of the Soviet garrison at Jalalabad resulted in government troops having to face partisan forces alone. The result of this was a wave of reverses and desertions that both partisan sources in Peshawar and travelers' reports have confirmed.

AWAMI LEAGUE-H SETS CONDITIONS TO GO TO POLLS

BK201153 Dacca The BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 81 pp 1, 12

[By a staff correspondent]

[Text] The Central Working Committee of the Bangladesh Awami League-Hasina, in a resolution adopted in its two-day meeting, said that the party is ready to accept any election challenge held in an atmosphere conducive to holding free and fair elections.

It has, however, set four conditions which, in their view, are preconditions to ensure free and fair elections. The resolution urged the government to accept the conditions by July 31. The resolution did not specifically express party decision to participate in the ensuing presidential election and nothing was mentioned about any election alliance.

The conditions include immediate withdrawal of emergency, release of political prisoners convicted under martial law and end to political harassment; shifting of election date to November, revision of electoral role [as published] to include new voters who have attained the age on the basis of the recent census; equal facility in all media for all candidates, ensuring freedom of the press; and use of government transport and administrative machinery by the ruling party candidates must be stopped.

The resolution urged all freedom loving democratic parties and elements to launch a movement to realise the conditions.

The working committee meeting concluded on Thursday. Party president Sheikh Hasina Wajed presided over the meeting. It was preceded by a two-day extended meeting of the Central Committee which concluded on Tuesday. During the extended meeting, reports from 63 organizational districts were placed where district leaders favoured participation in the ensuing presidential election. More than half of the organisational districts opposed election alliance.

The working committee resolution demanded repeal of the sixth amendment to the Constitution.

In support of the party demand for shifting election date, the resolution said that September 21 will be the beginning of Bengali month of Aswin when two-thirds of the country will remain under water and in that condition an election campaign would be difficult.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOANS--Bangladesh will receive about 2.060 million takas as commodity and project loans from Japan. An exchange note to this effect was signed in Dacca on 20 July. Under the two loans, the commodity loan, worth over 1.320 million takas would be utilized for procurement of a wide variety of items, like industrial raw materials and spare parts, machinery, chemicals, fertilizers, cement and raw cotton. The project loan for about 740 million takas will finance the implementation of the proposed Chittagong urea fertilizer project. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 20 Jul 81 BK]

KUWAIT LOAN--Kuwait is to give Bangladesh about $28 million as loan for financing a deep tubewell project in the northeastern region of the country. An agreement between Bangladesh and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development was signed in Kuwait recently. The project is expected to be completed by the middle of 1985. [Text] [Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 21 Jul 81 BK]

INDIRA GANDHI COMMENTS ON BIG POWERS' THREAT

BK210837 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people against the dangers which lie in the developing world situation and said the big powers are trying to fight their battles far from their own soil. Mrs Gandhi said this posed a threat to developing countries, including India. The prime minister said the countries in India's neighborhood are acquiring sophisticated arms far beyond their needs for security. This also posed a danger not only to India but also to those very countries. Mrs Gandhi said the hovering clouds of danger could thwart the country's march towards development.

Addressing an unscheduled meeting of government employees at Bhopal and speaking to newsmen later, Mrs Gandhi said India is neither afraid nor unaware of these dangers. She said the sooner the people realize these threats and work with dedication, the better it is for the nation.

Mrs Gandhi said she will review the performance of all state governments, including the non-Congress-I ones. Asked by newsmen if she was satisfied after a firsthand review of the work done by the Madhya Pradesh government, Mrs Gandhi said it is a time of economic difficulties, not only in Madhya Pradesh but in every state. She said the current price rise is due to global inflation. The prime minister said India has fortunately been able to contain inflation at least by 50 percent during a short span of time. She said the rise in prices ca be checked only with increased production. Stern action will be taken against hoarders and blackmarketeers.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhavan in Bhopal, the prime minister said false cries are being raised about alleged assault on press freedom. She said freedom cannot be granted to a handful of newspapers for presenting a distorted picture.

Mrs Gandhi said the Western media made a loud protest when India advocated a newspool of the nonaligned countries for exchange of news within the developing world. She said 90 percent of the foreign news coverage was being done by the big news agencies, which were prejudiced because of their own ideologies. Mrs Gandhi said these news agencies always made false forecasts serving the interests of the Western powers.

SPOKESMAN REJECTS PDRY ALLEGATION ON TROOPS

BK211612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad categorically rejected the charge leveled by the president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] that Pakistan is playing the role of a policeman in the Gulf and that Pakistani troops have been deployed in the Gulf region. The spokesman said today that if the statement attributed to the PDRY president in an interview published in a Kuwaiti newspaper is true, then it is a matter of regret and amazement because such a statement has been made by the leader of a country with which Pakistan has normal, friendly relations. The spokesman said that Pakistan maintains very good relations with all the countries of the region and no Pakistani troops have been stationed outside the country.

The spokesman said that Pakistan has extended technical assistance in the military field to certain friendly countries for training purposes only. The number of Pakistani forces sent to brotherly countries for this purpose is very negligible and Pakistan will never tolerate the use of these forces for actions against any third country.

KUWAIT INCREASES ECONOMIC AID TO PAKISTAN

BK211001 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Text] Kuwait has substantially increased its economic aid to Pakistan with special emphasis on the development of Baluchistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the increase in economic aid was a sequel to the visit last September to Pakistan of the amir of Kuwait, who expressed his keen interest in the overall development of Pakistan, particularly in the progress of Baluchistan.

The spokesman said in the last year, the Pakistan Government and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signed three loan agreements totaling $58.7 million. Two of the loans were (?to be spent) in Baluchistan. One loan of $32.7 million was for the Quetta natural gas project and the other of $15 million for rural electrification. A third loan agreement was expected to be signed in September this year providing $11 million for the provision of drinking and irrigation water in the Quetta-Gadani region. The third loan agreement for $11 million was concluded this year. The amount will be spent on setting up a Fauji fertilizer plant in the Punjab. The Kuwaiti fund will also be spent on several other projects in Pakistan. Noteworthy among them were the Guddu-Karachi power transmission line and the consultancy (?contracting) for the Pakistan railway.

Kuwait also gave balance of payment support to Pakistan worth $130 million last year and this year. He said the Pak-Kuwait Joint Investment Company, which was initially set up with the capital of $25 million, had also got a rapid boost. Its paid-up capital had been raised to $100 million and the authorized capital to $200 million with equal shares held by the two countries.

MAHDAVI-KANI INTERVIEWED ON ELECTION MATTERS

LD212218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Interview with Minister of Interior Mahdavi-Kani by Tehran radio correspondent on 21 July, place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Mahdavi, as only 3 days are left before the elections, please tell us whether the Ministry of Interior is fully prepared for the holding of these elections and what measures and precautions have been taken from the security point of view.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Ministry of Interior has so far been successful in making preliminary preparations for the elections, such as sending the ballots, the equipment and the boxes. We have even asked the air force and the Airborne Division to put helicopters at our disposal so that in the next 2 days we can take ballots and boxes to distant places which have no roads.

Concerning the security matters you referred to, we have taken every precaution. The security forces are warching the situation. Security issues related to the boxes and stations and the maintenance of security during the voting has been examined completely. What I can stress here is the need for the people's presence on the scene. We ask the people themselves to watch the situation. They should not interfere, but through vigilance they should not allow wrong things r acts of sabotage to be carried out during the elections. If they witness any act .. sabotage or, God forbid, any planting of bombs and suchlike they should immediately report it to the officials so that no accident takes place. In view of this I think that, God willing, no mishap will take place, and the enemies will despair about doing what they wish to do. Therefore, the people can vote with peace of mind and in security.

[It has been officially announced that on Friday people can vote from 0500 to 1700. In some cases, if there are too many others, we will extend the voting hours while there are still the stations waiting to vote.

[Question] In view of the experiences that we have had with previous elections, especially the presidential election, what is particularly significant this time?

[Answer] Our previous elections are important from two points of view: first, from the viewpoint of the candidate himself, because he should be a person who is really trustworthy so that former difficulties will not arise again; second, the interest which the people show in the elections for the sake of the elections.

As the imam has said as the people also know, in these elections our enemies are making efforts to see that not many people vote. Some people--whom even if we do not call them enemies, are at least opponents--have not taken part in the elections [as heard] and it is probably due to their wish to keep down the number of votes. Therefore, the importance of these elections for those people who follow the line of the revolution and who wish to safeguard this revolution is to actively take part in these elections, even though they vote against [as heard]. Yet they should take part in the elections and should express their views about the presidential elections and the republic itself.

[Question] My next question is about those who can vote in this round. Have any changes been made in the conditions for voting?

[Answer] Concerning those who can vote, at first the Ministry of Interior set an age limit of 16, as was the case in the last round of elections, in the presidential election. However, when this issue was discussed in the internal committee of the Majlis the deputies reduced the age limit to 15; that is, someone who had completed his 15th year and who had entered his 16th year and not, as before, someone who had completed his 16th year and had entered his 17th year.

The view of the gentlemen was that the 15th year, when 15 years are completed, is the age of religious maturity, the age when a person becomes responsible and religious injunctions become incumbent upon him. Therefore, why have we reduced this? Have we done so because a person can vote at that age because from an Islamic point of view he becomes a responsible person? If so, the same is true of 15. On this basis, in the Majlis they said 15 years. However, the gentlemen did not pay any attention to the fact that the laws concerning the elections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly have not changed; the limit is still 16.

Now, we are facing a contradiction. A voter can vote for the president because he has completed his 15th year, but he cannot vote for the Majlis candidates. These days, due to a shortage of time we could not take another bill to the Majlis and change it. Therefore, this might seem strange to the voters and it might also be misinterpreted by those abroad. However, I think it is not so [as heard]. The gentlemen in the Majlis did not pay attention to the fact that it is 16 in the Majlis elections which should also be changed. In the presidential elections they changed it on the basis of religious maturity, saying that there is not much difference between 15 and 16 and the person is mature; therefore, it poses no problem. We are forced to act in accordance with the law.

In the presidential elections we go on the basis of having completed 15 years, but those who vote in the Majlis elections should have completed their 16th year. The people themselves and those supervising the elections should bear this in mind.

[Question] My next question is about the facilities that have been made for our fighting brothers, the military, the corps, the mobilization in the fronts, as well as our compatriots who are war refugees. What facilities have been made for these people so that they can also take part in the elections?

[Answer] On the whole, we have made arrangements for the boxes to be taken to the war regions and fronts. Of course, not in the fronts themselves because there could be some clashes going on, but behind the lines where the fighters can come and vote and return to the fronts. In those places, in order to have more time, the Ministry of Interior has announced that they can continue the elections till the end of the night, so that if there are some people who go to the fronts in the morning they can vote when they return. These are the arrangements we have made for those places.

Concerning the refugees, those who are in cities can vote like the rest of the people; we will take boxes to those who are in the camps. As some of our refugees' birth certificates have been left behind in their former places of residence, their identity cards will suffice. Even if only the head of the family is registered on that identity card in the camps, if the persons who are in charge of the camps before the elections have written the names of the family members and their ages and if they identify the head of the family, they can vote with those cards. Of course, their cards will be stamped and they will not be able to vote somewhere else with those cards, if they wish to go to another place and vote again. They can vote once with their identity cards which will be stamped so that there will be no cheating.

However, concerning the birth certificates, through the media it has been said that the birth certificates should have photographs. As the birth certificates of many of our compatriots, especially in the villages, do not have photographs and it is not possible to ensure that all the birth certificates have photographs, those whose birth certificates do not have photographs can go with someone whose birth certificate has a photograph so that he can be their witness and in this way they can cast their votes. The main thing is identification; when identification takes place, the people can vote. If we were to be very strict, we would have some difficulties over the birth certificates. However, care should be taken about identification.

[Correspondent] I do not have any more questions. If you have anyting to say to the compatriots, please do so.

[Answer] One of the things I wish to say is that there may be some people who are illiterate and on election day they may go to the ballot boxes and give their ballots to someone whom they don't know to fill it for them, and this may lead to some mistakes. What I have to say is that those who cannot read or write should give their ballots to someone who is trustworthy. They should not give their ballot papers to persons whom they do not know. If they can take someone with them whom they know to write their ballots for them, that would be better; rather than asking those who may be found there, so that there will be no suspicion of treachery.

Some time ago, we issued an order that the names of the candidates for the Islamic Consultative Assembly should be written in every polling station, especially in Tehran, where there are many candidates, so that if the people have forgotten the name of their candidate, they can look there and choose their candidate. This is not to say that we have told the people who they should vote for, because we do not publicize, but the names of the candidates should be written in case the people forget them.

The people should bear in mind that the ballot for president has a white background and black writing; the ballot for the Majlis has a white background with green ink. These are separate. They should write one name for their presidential candidate and one, or as many as they should vote for, for the Majlis; I believe there are four for Tehran and two in Mashhad.

My last request is that the people should keep calm and should vote in complete calm and determination. They themselves should be upon the scene, especially in big cities, not only for voting but the presence of people is necessary because it is possible that some people might wish to cause some disturbance in order to sabotage the elections. We have received some reports that some people, as a last attempt, will try to cause disturbances in the voting and the presidential elections. The people can neutralize these plans with their presence, especially as it will be Friday and, God willing, the enemy will be disappointed. We hope that the favorite candidate of the people will be elected, God willing.

NVOI ON 'HOSTILE ATTITUDES' TOWARD PARTIES

TA211619 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Push Aside the Curtain of Fanaticism and Monopoly Seeking"]

[Excerpts] Parties and organizations that are followers of the imam's and the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line, whether in the past or during the period following the revolution, have shown their loyalty and honesty in safeguarding the revolution's gains in practice. This fact is so obvious that both friend and foe admit it. Despite this, responsible officials and government figures of our homeland, by taking advantage of their monopolistic positions and due to blind fanaticism and mental prejudices, level insults at every opportunity at the revolutionary forces of the steadfastness front and use various (?propaganda) against them, so much so they they cannot even endure the announcement of candidates for Majlis membership or presidency by these forces.

The business of fanaticism, monopoly seeking and mental prejudices has reached a high point. For example, the spokesman of the Council of Guardians, while discussing the eligibility of individuals who were candidates for the presidency, put on the same level as the shah-created Rastakhiz Party progressive and revolutionary parties and organizations which were the targets of the most rabid assaults for more than 40 years by the police and criminal forces of the Pahlavi dynasty, and who--whether during the period prior to the revolution or following the revolution--sincerely defended and continue to defend the popular and anti-imperialist line of the imam and the struggling Muslims. This is the height of injustice.

Is denying the valuable role of a revolutionary party--which during the whole period of the evil defunct shah's rule, merely and solely because of consistency and decisiveness in the struggle against despotism and imperialism, against the Pahlavi dynasty and its U.S. and British masters, was always the target of the most inhuman assaults by the security forces of the regime of Mohammad Reza--and placing it on the same level as the shah-created Rastakhiz Party not contrary to the Islamic and revolutionary ethics and conscious?

Without doubt, the true forces of the revolution, despite the erroneous, unrealistic and eventually self-interested judgments of some of the authorities, will nevertheless act according to their principled line, defending the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line.

But, the question arising for the people is how can the hostile attitude of some authorities regarding organizations and parties that have always defended and continue to defend the principled, popular and anti-imperialist line of the imam be interpreted?

ASGHAR-OLADI, MONTAZERI ON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

GF211027 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Following the abortive assassination attempt against Asghar-Oladi, one of the presidential candidates, Ayatollah Montazeri has sent a cable expressing joy over the failure of the plot.

He said: These days, with the approach of the night of destiny [the 27th night of Ramadan, on which the Koran was revealed to the prophet] and while our heroic people are determining their destiny, the remnants of the deviating groups tied to the United States are making desperate efforts. The United States and its agents have not been able to understand that their attempts to assassinate individuals and to set off explosions and start fires will not stop our great people from proceeding with their march, which they have consciously chosen. Our people will intensify their revolutionary struggle against these deviant groups.

Mr Asghar-Oladi, the Tehran Majlis deputy who was subjected to a heinous, abortive attempt against his life yesterday, has described his condition as satisfactory. In a short speech, he praised Imam Khomeyni and all those who are fighting for the sake of Islam.

He said: There is no cause for worry about my health, thank God. I will try to give a speech today or tomorrow on my candidacy for the presidential election. He added: Almighty God has granted me the chance to serve the oppressed. He has called upon the fighters on the battlefront to always (?shout) "Death to the United States!" He added: All these tricks are originated by the United States. The only thing left for the United States is to leave not only Iran but the region as well. Our people have determined that they will not be subservient to any foreign power.

Two of the assassins who made an attempt on Asghar-Oladi's life yesterday were killed. Mr Oladi was not seriously wounded.

GUARDS SEIZE EQUIPMENT IN HOUSES OF 'AGENTS'

LD211310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Masjed-e Soleyman announced that in the past few days this corps has succeeded, with the cooperation of the Muslim people, in discovering seven team houses. As a result, 12 American agents belonging to the hypocrites organizations [Mojahedin-e Khalq], Peykar, and the Feda'iyan-e Khalq guerrillas (minority wing) were arrested.

The following objects were discovered in these houses: a very powerful telescope, modern equipment for making alcoholic drinks, a quantity of heroin, a large amount of stencil paper, placards and books belonging to Peykar, the hypocrites organization and the minority wing of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq, 3 sacks of the RANJBARAN newspaper, 7 different firearms, 16 rounds of Kalashnikov rifle ammunition, 5 rounds of 50-caliber ammunition, 1 carpet-cutting blade, 5 weapons, 11 boxes of light bulbs, a large amount of gambling equipment, 44 kg of [word indistinct], 1,543 tapes, a large number of nude photographs, 1,033 rounds of G-3 ammunition, 140 rounds of M-1 ammunition, 94 rounds of Brno ammunition, 74 G-3 gas bullets, 1 G-3 bayonet, 1 [word indistinct] set, 9 empty G-3 magazines, 2 grenades and 6 flares.

CITIZENS ASKED TO HAND IN WEAPONS TO AUTHORITIES

LD211300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Statement issued by the Central Islamic Revolution Committee on 21 July]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Muslim nation: It has recently been noticed that some people who own firearms and ammunition are dumping them under cover of darkness in the streets and alleys. The counterrevolution, which has become aware of this, has been collecting these firearms by searching the streets at night and has been using these arms to further its own evil ends.

All the esteemed citizens who intend to attempt this sort of thing are hereby asked to refrain from doing so and to hand in their firearms to the Central Islamic Revolution Committee, Tehran Revolution Guards Corps, the guards bases or central committees in other provincial cities.

VOICE OF IRAN URGES BAZAARIS TO OPPOSE REGIME

GF211200 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The bazaars in Iran are in turmoil. The news of the past few days, which the authorities of Tehran's regime do not dare reveal, shows the anger of the religious and honorable bazaaris [bazaar merchants], who have risen against the non-Islamic and decadent regime of the mullahs. The bazaar in Tehran, with its contacts with bazaars in other cities--especially those in Esfahan, Tabriz, Mashhad and Shiraz--has been one of the focal points of politics in the recent history of our country. Bazaaris, while believing in and being faithful to the real bases of religion, have always defended Iranian independence and nationalism. The bazaaris know that communism, chaos and dictatorship--even under the guise of religion--shakes the pillars of the nation, thus severing Iran's connections with the Free World and honorable and healthy trade. In [words indistinct] have been the forerunners in the struggle to maintain the nobility of [word indistinct] and national integrity.

The patriotic Iranian bazaaris have always been in favor of law and order and were one of the forerunners of the movement for a constitutional monarchy [mashruteh]. Khomeyni's government appeared (?on the scene) behind a religious mask and--according to messages repeatedly issued in Paris by Khomeyni himself--was in favor of justice and equality and had complete reliance on the bazaaris.

[While in Paris] Khomeyni wanted the legal Government of Iran to arrange matters so some of the waste and embezzlement would be stopped. He never talked about changing the regime or said anything about wanting to force a group of unproductive, freeloading and useless individuals on the Iranian people. These were the claims Khomeyni made while he was living beside the Seine River. The honest and religious bazaaris were fooled by the words of a madman who later proved that he is [words indistinct] without religion and [word indistinct].

Of course, Khomeyni did not fool just the bazaaris. Many people have been fooled by this deceitful (?person). The Iranian bazaaris have shown considerable patience over the past 2 and 1/2 years. Money has been taken from these noble people under various pretexts. The faithless mullahs and the professional religious narrators [nume khan] of the regime took millions of tomans from the bazaaris under the pretext of imam's share, religious contributions and other excuses. Pressure from the non-Muslim Khomeyni and his infidel partners against the Iranian bazaars increased daily.

When the hostage-taking puppet show was started by the government--which resulted in an economic embargo against Iran--the Iranian bazaars, especially the one in Tehran, paid for it. When the unwanted war with Iraq was started by Khomeyni, solely for the sake of continuing his decadent rule--thus destroying or stopping the oil industry and production and reducing Iran's income to zero--the bazaars of Tehran and Iran again paid for Khomeyni's treachery. When permission to import goods and (?purchase) foreign currency was given by the [word indistinct] of the regime to a few decadent individuals with the title of ayatollah or hojjat ol-Eslam and their families, the faithful and patriotic bazaaris of our nation again paid for these abuses.

[Words indistinct] reached a level and obstinacy has been imposed to the degree that they have put noble bazaaris before the firing squads of the bloodsucking guards of Khomeyni. In Tehran and other cities, hundreds of patriotic Muslim merchants have been put in jail. The regime has kept the news of imprisonment of the esteemed bazaaris from everyone. Even the bazaaris themselves do not realize that hundreds in their trade have been sent to the dungeons. Khomeyni's regime decided to seek revenge (?against them) on Thursday, and the decadent government of Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i issued an order for the execution of tens of noble bazaaris via the shar' magistrates. However, since yesterday was the anniversary of birth of Imam Hasan, this criminal act was temporarily delayed. News of this criminal decision of the cruel regime of Iran was passed abroad by informed sources last night.

The Voice of Iran has been announcing such inauspicious reports in its newscasts since Thursday for the information of Iranians and the world in general. Now, the (?Voice of Iran) requests the patriotic Iranian nation, especially the honorable bazaaris, to go to the aid of their esteemed colleagues. The least hesitation by you dear bazaaris will have inauspicious consequences not only for the bazaaris but also for all Iranians. The shaken regime must not be allowed (?to carry out) such criminal acts. The cruel and murderous regime has surrendered a group of our nation's most noble people to the hot bullets of Khomeyni's executioners under the pretext of "waging war against God" and for being "corrupt on earth."

Noble bazaaris of Tehran, Tabriz, Mashhad, Esfahan, Shiraz and all cities in Iran, do not allow this frightful crime to take place! You cannot be accused of being leftists! You are an immense force! The Iranian nation awaits your reaction! Prove that, contrary to the predictions of the foreigners, the Iranian bazaaris are able to bring the criminal and non-Muslim rule of a decadent group to its knees!

MUSAVI EXPLAINS FOREIGN POLICY TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS

GF211720 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] During a meeting yesterday with all ambassadors and charges d'affaires in Tehran, Foreign Minister Hoseyn Musavi explained the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the principle of "Neither East nor West" and the principles of peace, friendship and fraternal relations.

Referring to the past 2 and 1/2 years of a struggle that was no easier than the struggle following the successful revolution which toppled the satanic regime, the foreign minister noted that all of Iran, after successfully evading the major crises and conspiracies plotted by the United States, now thinks in the same way, has one system and shares a common future.

After stressing the profound changes made by the Islamic revolution in the political and educational systems, Hoseyn Musavi addressed the foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires by saying: The imam of the nation helped the revolutionary people of Iran to reiterate without fear the slogan "Death to America" and made us feel that Islam is the way to save humanity, bring it justice and promote its success. The minister then emphasized the profound desire of the Iranian people to establish peace and friendship in order to serve the interests of humanity and the oppressed suffering from secularism.

He added: We are determined not to deviate one iota from our path or to lean toward either East or West, toward the United States or the Soviet Union, China, Europe or Japan. We want independence and we are determined to establish a new world by returning to Islam.

The foreign minister assured the ambassadors and charges that Islamic Iran does not want to instigate disturbances in the world but wants, through its sacrifices and struggle, to show humanity the new path through which it can get rid of the disturbances created by the superpowers in different parts of the world. The foreign minister added that understanding and comprehending Iran's foreign policy will build new relations based on respecting the independence of the oppressed countries and their rights to sovereignty.

At the conclusion of his talk, the foreign minister quoted a paragraph from the words of Imam Khomeyni in which he says: "Our relations with the United States are like those of the lamb and the wolf." He added that his is a de facto situation in many parts of the world. As far as our relations with the superpowers are concerned, we shall never forget the words of the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

COMMUNIQUE 576 ANNOUNCES BATTLE SUCCESSES

LD211830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Communique 576 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The proud heroes of the battlefields are selflessly fighting in the trenches of honor and faith, having made a covenant with every single drop of the blood of their martyred companions and comrades in arms in the trenches that so long as a single foreigner remains on this sacred land they will not sit idly by and will defend the honor and dignity of Islam and the ideological school of the Islamic homeland until the final victory over the aggressive enemy.

In the past 24 hours on the country's southern and western fronts, the combatant elements of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran subjected the positions of Islam's enemies to heavy-weapon fire and inflicted telling casualties and losses on Saddam's aggressive army.

In the region west of Dezful, thanks to artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2 enemy tanks, 1 bulldozer and 2 ammunition dumps were destroyed and 10 Iraqi servicemen were killed. In the Ahvaz region, thanks to the opening of fire on Iraqi Army positions and servicemen, one of Saddam's loaders was captured intact and five aggressive Iraqi soldiers were killed. On the Abadan front, our combatants subjected enemy positions to intense fire and, as a result, 5 ammunition dumps, 2 mortars, 1 23-mm cannon piece [as heard], 5 ammunition-carrying vehicles, 2 tanks and 6 assembly buildings of the aggressive servicemen were destroyed. In the same region, our naval personnel destroyed one enemy armored personnel carrier and one ammunition dump.

They also destroyed two observation posts and two vehicles of Saddam's army in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr and set ablaze three assembly buildings of the Iraqi troops.

By opening heavy-weapon fire on residential districts in Abadan yesterday, the enemy inflicted casualties and losses on the city's resisting people. The combatants of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions on the opposite bank of the Shatt al 'Arab, destroying two enemy squad trenches, two ammunition dumps and one vehicle carrying Iraqi troops in the (Wasiliyah) region in Iraq.

In the country's western region, the mighty gendarmerie combatants destroyed eight squad trenches, three vehicles and one enemy ammunition dump on the Arkavaz-Malekshahi heights and killed nine enemy aggressive servicemen. In the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, our intrepid heroes destroyed two enemy bunkers and killed five servicemen. In the past 24 hours 21 Iraqi troops gave themselves up to our military units and sought sanctuary under Islam.

On 19 July 9 of our combatant brothers from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran went to meet God; may their souls be happy and may many busily traverse their path.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

COMMANDER CLAIMS FORCES SEIZE IRAQI TOWN OF BIABAH

LD212056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, following some successful operations, the Iraqi town of Biabah has been occupied by the forces of Islam.

Colonel 'Attarian, the commander of western operations, at 2315 tonight told the PARS correspondent: Following a number of successful operations the Iraqi town of Biabah has been occupied by the combatants of Islam and the battle is continuing for the occupation of the town of Tawilah. He refused to give any further explanations in this regard, adding: The situation has been reported to Tehran.

MAJLIS DEPUTY APPEALS FOR FLOOD RELIEF, ASSISTANCE

LD211939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Statement by Majlis Deputy for Damavand and Firuzkuh Morteza Anjiri--date not given]

[Text] Flooding in the villages near Damavand and Firuzkuh has inflicted great damage on the oppressed rural people, ruined farms, uprooted trees, broken communication lines and, because of the destruction of the irrigation networks, farms and plantations are facing drought. It is important at this sensitive juncture, when our people are getting ready to vote with revolutionary fervor, to rush and assist our rural friends so that by solving their problems, they can also take part in the antiarrogance elections of Friday.

You can participate in this humane and revolutionary act by providing such machinery as bulldozers, loaders, trucks, etc; if you have none of these you could help with your echoing cries of "God is great" and powerful muscles.

[Singed] The deputy for Damavand and Firuzkuh, Morteza Anjiri